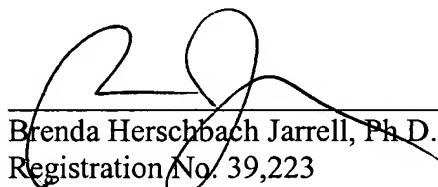


Remarks

Applicant submits the present Preliminary Amendment, which cancels claims 27-31 and 50-64, and amends claims 32-36 and 41-46. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original or filed claims in any future continuation or divisional applications. Applicant also reminds the Examiner to please consider the Amendment filed with the application, which address rejections made by the Examiner in the Final Office Action of the parent application, U.S.S.N. 09/337,079, filed June 21, 1999.

Please charge any fees that may be associated with this matter, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No.03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Herschbach Jarrell, Ph.D.
Registration No. 39,223

PATENT GROUP
CHOATE, HALL & STEWART
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 248-5000
Facsimile: (617) 248-4000
Date: June 11, 2003